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Wellington Urban District Council

(SOMERSET)



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year 1947

By HUGH MORRISON,

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

WELLINGTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL (SOMERSET).

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR, 1947.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF, 1947.

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WELLINGTON URBAN DISTRICT

Statistics for the Year, 1947.

Area (in Acres)	2,186
Estimate of Resident Population, mid-year, 1947	7,020
Census population, 1931	7,132
Number of Inhabited Houses according to the Rate Books on December 31st, 1947	2,159
Rateable Value, 31st December, 1947	£38,730
Sum represented by a 1d. Rate, 31st December, 1947	£156 4s. 3d.

Physical Character and Social Conditions.

The Urban District of Wellington lies between 212ft. at Tonedale in the North, and 293 ft. in the region of the Cemetery, above sea level. It is built upon the triassic rock (new red sandstone) here divisible into—(1) marl, (2) sandstone, (3) conglomerate, (4) sand and sandstone. The town is chiefly upon sandstone. The marl is well shown in the direction of the Poole Brick Pits (just outside the District), and a narrow strip of marl crosses the Market Place extending $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to the North-West. Rockwell Green is on the marl. The sandstones make a dry permeable soil. The marl and sandstone belongs to the Keuper or upper division of the new red sandstone. Gravel patches occur over a considerable part of the triassic rocks between Wellington and Sampford Arundel.

The local industries are chiefly factories for the manufacture of woollen, worsted, cloth, serge, flock, bedding and engineering works. Agriculture within and without the Urban District, and brick-making just outside the District also give employment to the inhabitants. The Census Population in 1911 was 7,633—in 1921 it was 7,212—in 1931 it was 7,132, and in 1947 it is estimated to be 7,020.

Extracts from the Vital Statistics of the Year, 1947.

Live Births—	Total	M.	F.	
Legitimate	130	67	63	} Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population
Illegitimate	6	3	3	
	136	70	66	
				19.37

Still Births—Total 4

Rate per 1,000 total (live and Still) births 28.57

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 0.57

Deaths—Total 128

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 18.23

Deaths from Puerperal causes—Total Nil.

	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Rates per 1,000 births</i>
From Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	Nil
From other Maternal causes	Nil	Nil

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age—Total	2	
Legitimate	—	2
Illegitimate	—	14.71
Rate for all infants per 1,000 live births	—	15.38
Rate for legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	—	—
Rate for illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	—	21
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	—	—
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	—	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	—	—
Rates for England and Wales as a whole:—		
Live Births per 1,000 civilian population	—	20.5
Still Births per 1,000 civilian population	—	0.50
Deaths (all causes) per 1,000 civilian population	—	12.0
Maternal Mortality, all causes, per 1,000 total (live and still) Births	—	1.17
Infant Mortality, all causes, per 1,000 total (live and still) Births	—	41.0

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1947.

<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—	—
Scarlet fever	—	—	—
Whooping cough	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	2	2	4
Other forms of tuberculosis	1	1	2
Syphilitic diseases	—	—	—
Influenza	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis	—	—	—
Acute infectious encephalitis	—	—	—
Cancer of buccal cavity, oesophagus, uterus	—	2	2
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	—	5	5
Cancer of breast	—	3	3
Cancer of all other sites	11	6	17
Diabetes	—	1	1
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	4	10	14
Heart disease	17	19	36
Other disease of the circulatory system	3	3	6
Bronchitis	1	3	4
Pneumonia	—	3	3
Other respiratory disease	1	—	1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	1	2
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	—	—	—
Appendicitis	—	1	1
Other digestive disease	2	3	5
Nephritis	3	3	6
Puerperal and post abortion sepsis	—	—	—
Other maternal causes	—	—	—
Premature birth	—	—	—
Congenital malformation, birth injuries, etc.	2	—	2
Suicide	—	—	—
Road traffic accidents	2	1	3
Other violent causes	—	2	2
All other causes	8	1	9
All causes—Total	58	70	128

Infant Mortality during 1947.

The death of two infants under the age of one year giving an infantile mortality rate of 14.71 compares favourably with the rate for England and Wales, which was 41.0.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Hospitals.

Infectious Diseases.—Cases of infectious diseases are sent to the Taunton and District Joint Isolation Hospital, situated in the Borough of Taunton. The Rural District of Taunton is one of the contributory authorities. Severe cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum are received by the Hospital but are maintained by the County Council. Cases of Puerperal Pyrexia are admitted through and maintained by the County Council to the Puerperal Sepsis Block of the Isolation Hospital. This new Block commenced to receive cases from May, 1938.

Tuberculosis.—Cases of Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis come under the County Council scheme for treatment. The Pulmonary cases are sent to Quantock Sanatorium if the disease is in an early stage and the more advanced cases are sent to Taunton Sanatorium or to the Sanatoria of Wincanton and Chard. Cases requiring Orthopaedic treatment are admitted to Chard Sanatorium or to Bath Orthopaedic Hospital. Pre-tubular children and children with tubercular glands also come under the County Tuberculosis Scheme and are sent to Compton Bishop Children's Home, near Axbridge.

Small-pox.—Provision for the accommodation of cases of small-pox is made by the County Council at its Hospital at Cossington, near Bridgwater.

General Medical and Surgical.—The inhabitants go to the Cottage Hospital in Wellington and to the Taunton and Somerset Hospital for out-patient and in-patient treatment, and to Bristol where there are the same facilities.

Chronic Sick.—These are received into the Public Assistance Institution situated in the Urban District of Wellington, or, if full, to the Institution in the Borough of Taunton.

Mental Sick.—Cases are sent to the Mental Hospital at Tonevale in the Parish of Bishop's Lydeard.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Tuberculosis.—A Clinic is held once a week in the Borough of Taunton, at which the services of a County Tuberculosis Officer are available. In conjunction with the Clinic there is an After-Care Committee working in co-operation with the Tuberculosis Officer.

Venereal Diseases.—A combined Centre and Treatment Centre is maintained by the County Council at the Taunton and Somerset Hospital.

Maternity and Child Welfare.—The Maternity and Child Welfare Acts are administered by the County Council, under whose supervision are also the midwives practising in the area. There is an excellent Maternity Home in the Urban District to which the County Council make a grant. It has 15 beds including one receiving bed, one Isolation bed, and one bed in the labour ward. The charges are £4 4s. per week where a ward is shared, and £7 7s. per week for a private ward.

All cases of Puerperal Pyrexia and Maternal Mortality are investigated under the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme of the County Council.

Laboratory Facilities.—The County Laboratory is situated in the County Hall in the Borough of Taunton. No charge is made for the usual Bacteriological examination of swabs, blood, sputum, and faeces, etc. This service is also available without charge to medical men practising in the District. Bacteriological and chemical analyses are also undertaken for the examination of milks, foods, water supplies, sewage effluents, etc.

Ambulance Facilities.—The Wellington and District Ambulance Society under the auspices of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, was inaugurated in 1930. There is one Ambulance, serving the Urban and Rural Districts of Wellington; both authorities make grants towards its upkeep, each authority being represented on the Society's Committee. The Ambulance service is well organised, efficient and adequate for the areas served.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.—This is derived from deep seated springs found in the old red sandstone at Westford and Payton. There is no known liability to pollution. The water (180,000 gallons daily) is collected in underground brick and cement tanks without filtration and from thence pumped into three water towers, two situated in Rockwell Green, their capacities being 100,000 gallons (constructed in 1935) and 20,000 gallons, and the other at Dark Lane with a capacity of 40,000 gallons. The water is chlorinated before it reaches the consumer. The following is a chemical analysis of the raw water from the new bore-hole at Pitt Farm which shows its freedom from more than traces of organic impurity:—

						(all results in parts per 100,000).
Physical characters	....	..	....	....	....	Slightly opalescent
Reaction	....	....	....	....	....	pH=7.3 slightly alkaline
Total Solids	....	....	....	....	....	30.8
Alkalinity (as CaCO_3)	....	....	....	....	....	26.8
Total hardness	....	....	....	....	....	22.0
(a) Temporary	....	....	....	....	....	19.0
(b) Permanent	....	....	....	....	....	3.0
Sodium Bicarbonate (as CaCO_3)	....	....	....	....	....	4.8
Chlorine (in terms of Sodium Chloride)	....	....	....	....	....	3.4
Nitrogen as Saline and free Ammonia	....	....	....	....	....	0.0026
" " Albuminoid "	....	....	....	....	....	0.0004
" " Nitrates	....	....	....	....	....	Nil.
" " Nitrites	....	....	....	....	....	Nil.
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate (4 hrs. at 80 deg. F.)	....	....	....	....	....	Nil.
Free Carbon Dioxide	....	....	....	....	....	1.8
Poisonous Metals	....	....	....	....	....	Nil.
Fluorine	....	....	....	....	....	Less than 0.05
Sediment	....	....	....	....	....	Nil.

Extensions of the water mains have been carried out at Blackdown Road, Rockwell Green, where 333 yards of 3-inch main were laid to serve 36 dwellings erected by the Council. On the Longforth Estate 1,193 yards of 3-inch main were laid to service 54 dwellings in course of erection and to make provision for further houses on this estate. As a result of unsatisfactory supplies from private wells at Mitchell's Pool the Council are taking steps to extend the public supply to this area to service the five dwellings affected.

The supply of the area has been satisfactory in quality and as regards quantity the supply is constant and it has not been necessary to restrict the hours of supply. The margin of daily reserve over consumption is very small and to increase this reserve a site has been acquired at Pitt Farm, on the western side of the District where a trial borehole has been sunk and which during a seven day continuous pumping test yielded 10,000 gallons per hour. This proposed supply was found to be satisfactory and will be pumped to the existing water towers to augment the present supply. Tenders for pumping plant, pump house, mains, and other work connected therewith have been asked for.

The Augmentation Scheme of taking water from the bore at Messrs. Aplin and Barrett's Creamery continues in use and has been very helpful in maintaining a constant supply. Up to 20,000 gallons per day may be taken from this source, which has a similar chemical analysis to the main supply.

Nine samples of raw water on bacteriological examination gave good results. Of eighteen samples of chlorinated water, taken from consumers taps, which were bacteriologically examined, seventeen gave satisfactory results. Repeat samples of the one unsatisfactory examination gave good results. A Sample from each of the following sources of supply have been chemically analysed: Westford Springs, Payton Springs, The Creamery Borehole and Pitt Farm Borehole. All gave satisfactory results but the degrees of hardness in each case is somewhat high.

The water is not liable to have any plumbo-solvent action, it is somewhat hard, the temporary hardness being 20.5, permanent hardness 5.5. and total hardness 26.0 parts per 100,000.

It has not been necessary to take action in respect of any form of contamination.

The proportion of dwelling-houses and the proportion of the population supplied from the public mains is as follows:—

(a)	Water laid direct to houses	91.79%
	Water laid direct to houses	91.79%
	Population supplied	92.27%
(b)	Houses supplied by means of standpipes	4.27%
	Population supplied	4.26%

There are 38 wells serving 63 dwellings in the District which are unable to obtain water from the public mains chiefly on account of the dwellings being an unreasonable distance from the mains and their inaccessibility.

Sewage Disposal.—The reconstruction of the Tone Sewage Disposal Works took place between the years 1935 and 1936, and during 1939 additional sludge beds were constructed at a higher level and the sludge drying area widened to twice its former capacity. The Works consist essentially of continuous flow settlement tanks, the effluent from which flows on to sprinkler aeration and bacteria beds. The clarified effluent so formed discharges into the River Tone. It appears to be of Statutory quality and causing no nuisance in the River. The effluent when last examined, and its chemical analysis, shown as under, proves that the sample contained no excessive amount of suspended solids and absorbed no excessive amount of dissolved oxygen:—

(All results in parts per 100,000)

Physical characters						
Liquid	....	....	....	....	....	Fairly clear
Sediment	....	....	....	....	....	Moderate
Odour	....	....	....	....	....	—
Reaction	....	....	....	....	....	—
Total Solids	....	....	....	....	....	—
Solids in suspension	....	....	....	....	....	0.7
Solids in solution	....	....	....	....	....	0.7
Chlorine (in terms of sodium chloride)	....	....	....	....	....	8.6
Nitrogen as free saline Ammonia	....	....	....	....	....	0.090
„ Albuminoid Ammonia	....	....	....	....	....	0.040
„ Organic	....	....	....	....	....	—
„ Nitric from Nitrates	....	....	....	....	....	2.6
Oxygen absorbed	....	....	....	....	....	—
4 hours at 80 deg. F.	....	....	....	....	....	0.3
3 mins. at „	....	....	....	....	....	—
Dissolved Oxygen absorbed	....	....	....	....	....	—
After 5 days incubation 65 deg. F.	....	....	....	....	....	1.4
Putrescibility	....	....	....	....	....	—

In addition to the above main Sewage Disposal Works, there is a smaller works dealing with a limited amount of sewage to the South of the Town, known as Mitchell's Pool. Its effluent was unsatisfactory and causing a nuisance to the nearby stream into which it flowed. During the year, 1944, the existing sedimentation tank was converted into two settlement tanks, a dosing chamber was built together with a new 50 feet circular filter with revolving arms. There was also erected four sludge beds, each 23 feet by 14 feet and a pump house with a small petrol pumping unit. It is intended that these works shall deal with future developments in the Pyles Thorne area. They will not be capable without further enlargement of dealing with any large scale development on the Priory Estate. During the year the Council instructed their Consulting Engineers to prepare a scheme for enlargement of these works. This scheme has been accepted by the Council at an estimated cost of £4,200 and is awaiting Ministry approval.

The proposals are based on a Dry Weather Flow of 33,000 gallons per day, or a population of 1,100 at 30 gallons per head per day. There will be provided two pyramidal sluge hoppers in the floor at the inlet end of each settlement tank. A storm water tank with a capacity of 8,250 gallons or 6 hours D.W.F., an additional filter bed, similar to the one existing, 50 ft. 6 inches diameter and 4 ft. 9 inches average depth which will give a rate of filtration of 50 gallons per cubic yard at D.W.F. There are no humus tanks at present and it is proposed to construct two of a total capacity of 5,500 gallons or four hours D.W.F. Two new sludge beds will also be added bringing the total area to 216 sq. yards, or 1 sq. yard for every 5 persons. New pumping plant will be provided to pump back the drainage from the sludge beds for re-treatment. If these proposals are carried out there will be provided a works capable of dealing with any reasonable developments which may take place in the next few years.

The drainage of the Town is by a combined system, that is, the sewers receive not only the sewerage proper but also any rain water that falls in the area.

The River Tone bounds the Town in the North and West. The treated effluent of a Woollen Factory passes into the River as well as the effluent from the Sewage Works. In addition there is a winding stream which passes through the Town, known as the Town Stream, it is subject to pollution and discharges into the Tone.

The water carriage system is practically universal in the District though not all closets have flushing cisterns. There are 29 dwellings which have water closets not connected to the sewer. With the exception of 10 houses at Spypost and Bagley and 5 at Westford and 5 at Payton, the others are large houses and farms on the outskirts of the town.

As far as can be ascertained no crude sewage is discharged untreated, but from 8 dwellings at Westford slop water enters the stream in an untreated state.

63 houses are served by earth closets. These are in areas where no sewer is available and in the more rural parts of the District, mainly at Farthings Pitts, Westford, Winsbeer, Rackfield and Payton.

Public Cleansing.—This is satisfactory and undertaken by the Council; premises are visited about twice a week. The Council also removes and disposes of the Trade Refuse of the Town. There are no tips for refuse. The Council purchased in 1926 a Heenan & Froude's single chamber destructor with a forced draught by a fan and run by a petrol engine. This has been worked to full capacity for some years and serious consideration should be given to replacing this with a larger one.

Certain materials are still Salvaged by the Council from the refuse collected, as follows:—

						<i>By the Council.</i>	
						<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>
Paper	....	....	....	....	....	31	10
Bones	....	....	....	....	....	4	7½
Rags	....	....	....	....	....	2	15
Metal—Ferrous	....	....	....	....	....	10	1
Metal—Non ferrous	....	....	....	....	....	—	—
Kitchen Waste	....	....	....	....	....	15	0
Bottles and Jars	....	....	....	....	....	1	18½

Collection is also carried out by a commercial firm and records are not available.

Eradication of Bed-bugs.—No Council Houses or other premises were found to be infested during the year.

Offensive Trades.—There are no offensive trades in the District within the meaning of Section 107 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Camping Sites.—There are no recognised camping sites in the District and it has not been necessary to issue licences under Section 269 (2) of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Smoke Abatement.—There have been no nuisances arising from industrial premises and consequently no action has been taken under Section 101 of the Public Health Act, 1936, neither have any complaints been received.

Schools.—The sanitary conditions of the schools in the area continue to be reasonably satisfactory and they are all on the public water supply.

Swimming Baths and Pools.—There is one privately owned open-air swimming pool in the District which is open to the public and is made considerable use of during the summer months and at times it becomes overcrowded. The capacity of this pool is only 65,625 gallons. Six samples of the water were taken of which two were unsatisfactory due to an excessive number of B.coli. The explanation for this was inefficient chlorination. The great drawback to privately owned swimming pools is that proprietors are over inclined to study economy by conserving the use of sterilising agents and thereby making supervision more difficult.

The Local Authority has definite powers a control over privately owned swimming baths and pools, the powers being available under Sects. 92 and 287 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Nature and Number of Inspections during the year:—

Dwelling-houses	....	....	....	....	....	474
Premises where Food is sold or prepared	....	....	....	....	....	29
Bakehouses	....	....	....	....	....	15
Infectious Disease enquiries and disinfections, etc.	....	....	....	....	....	13

Number of Notices served during the year:—

Informal Notices	....	....	....	....	....	46
Statutory Notices	....	....	....	....	....	0

Results of Notices served:—

Total Notices complied with	....	....	....	....	....	37
Notices standing over from 1946	....	....	....	....	....	9

Conditions remedied:—

Defective Drainage	....	....	....	....	....	19
Defective Sanitary Fittings	....	....	....	....	....	26
Dampness abated	....	....	....	....	....	8
Provision of New Water Closets	....	....	....	....	....	4
Miscellaneous	....	....	....	....	....	58

Disinfections were for the following conditions:—

Tuberculosis	5	Scarlet Fever	2
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Shop Acts, 1912—1938.

Certain powers relating to health and comfort and sanitary provisions are delegated by the County Council to this Authority and 59 inspections have been made. The defects found were mainly of a minor character and all were rectified by informal action. The number and types of defects which were rectified were as follows:—

Repair of Sanitary Conveniences	....	....	....	....	....	7
Limewashing	....	....	....	....	....	8
Abatement of Nuisances	....	....	....	....	....	15
Provision of additional Sanitary Conveniences	....	....	....	....	....	3
Provision of additional Lighting and Ventilation	....	....	....	....	....	2

It was not found necessary to take action in relation to additional heating arrangements and cloakroom facilities.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1947, FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF WELLINGTON IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors):—

Premises (1)	Number on Register (1)	Number of		
		Inspec- tions (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	12	2	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	10	18	4	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	17	30	6	—

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

(If defects were discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)
	Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	3	3	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	2	2	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	5	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work).	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	10	10	—	—	—

Bakehouses.—There are four bakehouses in the District and 15 inspections were made of them. They are all kept in a satisfactory condition and are all on the public water supply.

Meat Supply.—Under the Live Stock (Restrictions on Slaughtering) Order, 1940, slaughtering of animals for human consumption is carried out only at certain specified slaughter-houses, and the meat, after inspection, is distributed over a very large area. The slaughter-houses serving this District are situated in the Borough of Taunton and in the Taunton Rural District, where the Sanitary Inspectors of those Districts carry out inspection before distribution and it is satisfactory to note that the percentage of unfit meat that escapes their vigilance is infinitesimal.

During one week in August the meat sent into the district from the Government Slaughter-House arrived in bad condition due to fly blows and maggot infestation.

All the retail butchers were affected, and had to accept delivery. 495 lbs. of veal and 394 lbs. of offal was condemned and returned to the depot. Upon investigation it was found that the meat and offal had been inspected and passed as fit for human consumption at the time of killing in the area where the slaughter-house was situated, but that it had been held over the week-end, allocated on Monday morning and not delivered to the butchers until late the same evening. This occurred during a spell of exceptionally hot weather and the result was that serious fly infestation of the meat took place which necessitated its condemnation.

Conditions at the Slaughter-house in question were inspected by the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector, and a protest was made to the Ministry of Food. It is felt that every effort will be made to avoid similar incidents in the future.

The following quantities of foodstuffs were condemned as being unfit for human consumption and surrendered by the owners:—

82 Tins of Meat	110 lbs. of Dried Fruit.
161 Tins of Fish.	276 lbs. of Wet Fish.
254 Tins of Milk.	40 lbs. of Cheese.
314 Tins of Fruit, Vegetable, Jam, Soup, etc.	58 lbs. Sugar.
958 lbs. of Butchers' Meat and Offal	175½ lbs. Biscuits.
80½ lbs. of Bacon	13 lbs. Chocolates
	13½ lbs. Semolina.
	8 lbs. Margarine.

Up to 1939, there were seven Registered and two Licensed Slaughter-houses in the District.

Milk Supply.—The inspection of Farms and Dairies and the taking of Samples of Milk under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, and the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936, 1943, were continued during the year.

Of the 16 farms in the District 9 are supplied with water from the Public Supply, the remaining 7 are too far from the water mains to make the supply available. One of the above 9 farms was connected to the water mains during the year.

Structural improvements to cowsheds and dairies have been continued to be made. One producer who was previously producing accredited milk has been granted a Licence to produce T.T. Milk. Improvements such as new concrete floors, drainage, additional light and ventilation have been made without undue difficulty and it has not been necessary to serve notices to enforce this work.

Generally speaking the dairy farms are kept in a satisfactory condition and the milk producers are realising the advantages to themselves and the consumers of a wholesome and clean milk supply.

The number of samples of milk examined by the County Bacteriologist was 39. The analytical results are shown in the following table.

<i>Designation.</i>	<i>No. of Samples taken.</i>	<i>No. found unsatisfactory</i>	<i>No. found satisfactory.</i>
T.T.	18	6	12
Pasteurised	16	3	13
Accredited	5	0	5

The County Council, as the Food and Drugs Authority, have since the 1st July, 1946, taken over the sampling of Pasteurised, Heat Treated and Designated Milk.

Tuberculosis Order, 1925.—No cows were slaughtered under this Order during the year.

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

Number of Producers on the Register	...	...	...	16
Number of Distributors on the Register divided as follows:—				
(a) Distributors only	...	...	...	9
(b) Distributors who are also producers	...	...	...	5

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936 and 1938.—Under this Order the following licences are in force in the District as issued by the County Council and this Council:—

(a) County Council:	T.T. Producers	...	...	6
	Accredited Producers	...	...	1
(b) Wellington U.D.C.:	To use the designation "Pasteurised"			1

HOUSING.

The Council have been active in dealing with overcrowding and have endeavoured to give first priority to ex-service persons living in rooms with children. This has not at all times been possible as cases have arisen that have required to be dealt with urgently but every effort has been made to rehouse persons who are occupying insanitary and overcrowded premises, have large families or are living under unsatisfactory housing conditions. During the year 24 non-parlour houses and 12 one-bedroom flats were completed and occupied at Blackdown Road and 10 parlour, 36 non-parlour and 8 one-bedroom flats were commenced at Howard Road, Longforth. It is anticipated that when these houses are occupied the Council will have dealt with the most serious cases of overcrowding and can then concentrate on the cases which are living in insanitary and unsatisfactory conditions. The Council have continued to exercise their requisitioning powers and three cottages have been taken possession of during the year to rehouse persons inadequately housed, whilst two cottages were converted into one to provide additional bedrooms for a large family already occupying one of the cottages. Two cottages were released from requisition and closed, on the tenants being allocated a Council house, on account of their very insanitary condition, 36 premises accommodating 55 families are now held under requisition and occupied by persons inadequately housed. No large houses or camp hutments have been requisitioned during the year for conversion into separate units of accommodation.

During the year the Council adopted a rent rebate scheme under which all tenants who maintain their houses up to a certain standard of cleanliness and decoration receive two weeks rent rebate in lieu of the Council carrying out interior decorations. All the houses were inspected and percentage marking given for each room and garden, etc., and an average percentage arrived at for the whole house. On completion of the inspection the Housing Administration Committee fixed 70 per cent. and over as qualifying for rent rebate. It is pleasing to note that of a total of 362 houses inspected only 49 did not reach the 70 per cent. I feel that now this scheme has been adopted there will be a gradual and steady improvement in the interior condition of the houses, as there is no doubt that such a scheme stimulates a spirit of pride and competition amongst the tenants. On the whole the tenants take an interest in their houses and appreciate the improved amenities although we have a few "black spots" which are inevitable having regard to the number of various types of families for which the Council have to provide accommodation.

The number of applicants for Council Houses at the end of the year was 384 and the following table shows the total population housed in Council houses and the percentage of houses owned by the Council.

INSPECTION OF COUNCIL HOUSES.

<i>Population housed in</i>		<i>Parlour</i>	<i>Non-Parlour</i>	<i>Flats</i>	<i>Totals</i>
	<i>No. of dwellings</i>				
Alexandra Road	32		121		121
Blackdown Road	34		94	27	121
Brendon Road	52		212		212
Church Fields	42	203			203
Church Green	8			13	13
Crosslands	14		60		60
Greenway Road	36		98	13	111
Longforth Road	32	135			135
Lower Foxmoor Road	16	70			70
Olands Road	24		88		88
Pope's Lane	16		70		70
Quantock Road	46		130	20	150
Victoria Street	8	44			44
TOTALS	360	452	873	73	1398

Total Population housed in Council houses (all types)	....	....	1,398
Percentage of Population of Urban District housed in Council houses	20.06%		
Number of houses providing accommodation for lodgers	....	126	(35%)
Number of lodgers:—	Adults.	Children (under 10 years).	Total.
	216	65	281 (20.1%)

Number of houses occupied, 360 (320 houses and 40 flats).
(Note: Two houses at Blackdown Road not completed at time of inspection).

Percentage of houses in Urban District owned by the Council 17.13%
Average number of persons per house, 4.14; per flat, 1.82.

Owing to the future building programme being now controlled by the Ministries of Health and Works no reliable estimate of the number of houses the Council will be able to erect can be given. Only 58 houses were allotted to this District for erection in 1947 and these are being built on the Longforth site at Howard Road.

The following sites have been or will be acquired by the Council:—

Longforth Site.—14.44 acres. Works of roads and sewers completed and houses in course of erection.

Doctor's Meadow Site, Rockwell Green.—3.28 acres. 24 permanent houses and 12 flats have been erected.

Tone Hill Site.—1.27 acres. This site has been purchased and the Ministry of Health has given consent to the erection of 10 Cornish Unit houses.
See Page 18.

Oaken Ground Site, Rockwell Green.—6.21 acres. Terms have been agreed for the acquisition of this site and the formal consent of the Ministry of Health is awaited.

The Priory Site.—16 acres (approx.). The Ministry of Town and Country Planning has approved this site and negotiations are in progress for its acquisition.

Site between "Wardleworth" and Crosslands Terrace, Tonedale.—3.5 acres. The Ministry of Town and Country Planning has given their approval to the ultimate utilisation of this site for housing purposes.

These sites allow for a housing programme of approximately 400 houses and flats.

19 houses condemned under the Housing Act, 1936, continue to be occupied by temporary licences issued to the owners for re-occupation. This re-occupation of condemned houses is not an infringement of Section 155 (3) of the Housing Act, 1936, as it is a War Emergency measure designed to meet the acute housing shortage and is covered by Regulation 68A, Defence (General) Regulations, 1939. These houses are inspected by the Sanitary Inspector, who reports to the Council the minimum repairs, etc., necessary to bring them into such condition of cleanliness and repair as to be reasonably capable of being used, as a temporary measure, for housing purposes without detriment to health.

Where the owner has complied with the recommendations, the Council may issue a licence authorising the re-occupation of a house and the rent to be charged, but the licence is not operative for more than six months without renewal.

The following table shows the number and position of the houses which have been erected by the Council under the Various Acts:—

HOUSING (ASSISTED SCHEME) ACT, 1919.

<i>Address.</i>	<i>No. of Houses</i>
1—14 Longforth Road (Parlour Type)	14

HOUSING (FINANCIAL PROVISIONS) ACT, 1924.

15—37 Longforth Road (Parlour Type)	18
1—42 Church Fields (Parlour Type)	42
14—21 Victoria Street (Parlour Type)	8
1—32 Alexandra Road (Non-Parlour Type)	32
1—24 Olands Road (Non-Parlour Type)	24
21—36 Lower Foxmoor Road (Parlour Type)	16
1—16 Pope's Lane (Non-Parlour Type)	16
26—39 Crosslands (Non-Parlour Type)	14

HOUSING ACT, 1936.

1—52	Brendon Road (Non-Parlour Type)	....	....	....	52
1—18	} Quantock Road (Non-Parlour Type)	....	....	....	34
27—42		....	....	....	12
19—26 _A	Quantock Road (Flats)	....	....	....	12
1—24	} Greenway Road (Non-Parlour Type)	....	....	....	28
26—32		....	....	....	8
25—39	Greenway Road (Flats)	....	....	....	8
1— 8	Church Green (Flats)	....	....	....	8
1—36	Blackdown Road (Non-Parlour Tyoe)	....	....	....	24
13—32	Blackdown Road (Flats)	....	....	....	12
1—75	} Howard Road	(Non-Parlour Type)	....	....	36
45—63		(Parlour Type)	....	....	10
5—23		(1-Bedroom Flats)	....	....	8
77—83		(2-Bedroom Flats)	....	....	4
					420

Of the above total of 420 houses and flats, 114 houses and 20 flats were built to replace houses dealt with by Slum Clearance in previous years under the Housing Acts, 1930 and 1936.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DISEASES	TOTAL	AGE GROUP							No admitted Isolation to Hospital
		0	1	3	5	10	15	25 and over	
Whooping Cough	6	—	—	3	3	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
Measles	33	1	1	6	25	—	—	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—

Notification rates for Wellington Urban District compared with those of England and Wales taken as a whole are calculated as per 1,000 civilian population, except Puerperal Pyrexia which is calculated per 1,000 total live and still births.

DISEASES.	No. OF NOTIFICATIONS	RATES FOR	
		Wellington U.D.	England and Wales
Whooping Cough	6	0.85	2.22
Scarlet Fever	2	0.28	1.37
Measles	33	4.70	9.41
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	28.57	7.16

The District is one of the Constituent Authorities forming the Taunton and District Joint Isolation Hospital Board. The Annual Report of the work done at Taunton Isolation Hospital during 1947 will be found at the end of this report.

Diphtheria Prophylaxia.—For the sixth year in succession, no cases of diphtheria have occurred in the District. Time will show whether this may be attributed entirely or partly to Immunisation against Diphtheria. Immunisation is being carried out by the Medical Staff of the Somerset County Council and by General Medical Practitioners in the District. In the Circulars (193/45 and 194/45) issued by the Ministry of Health, stress is rightly laid on ensuring primary inoculation of as many pre-school and school children as possible. At the same time it must be remembered that, if diphtheria is to be kept under control, the state of resistance of children who have received primary immunisation must be maintained by re-inoculation at suitable intervals. Infants of the age of 8 to 9 months should be immunised because one of every two unimmunised contracting the disease under the age of one year, dies. By the time the child reaches school age, the primary stimulus of the earlier immunisation has waned, and, to remedy this, every child should be given a reinforcing dose of toxoid before he begins school attendance.

The following figures show how immunisation is progressing in this District from the commencement of the Scheme.

Number of children who had completed full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1947.

<i>Age</i>	<i>under 1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5 to 9</i>	<i>10 to 14</i>	<i>Total under 15</i>
<i>Year of Birth.</i>	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1938-1942	1933-1937	
<i>Number Immunised</i>	13	1	40	68	22	475	551	1170

TUBERCULOSIS.

Particulars of new cases and number of Deaths from Tuberculosis are shown in the following Table:—

<i>Age Periods.</i>	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	<i>Respiratory.</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory.</i>		<i>Respiratory.</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory.</i>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
15—20	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
35—45	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
45—55	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	7	5	1	—	2	2	1	1

At the end of the year there were 37 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 6 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis in the Register kept for this disease relating to this District.

No action had to be taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from Tuberculosis in the Milk Trade, nor under Sect. 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to compulsory removal to Hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

The Local Authority have no special arrangement of their own under Sect. 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for assisting in the prevention of blindness and in particular for the treatment of persons ordinarily resident within their area who are suffering from any disease of, or injury to, the eyes. This power is exercised by the County Council, Cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, which used to be a potent cause of blindness, must be notified by the notifying practitioner direct to the Medical Officer of Health of the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority (which in this case is the County Council) under the Public Health (Ophthalmia Neonatorum) Amendment Regulations, 1937. Prompt and early treatment is thus obtained and most of the cases are sent to the Isolation Hospital for treatment.

TAUNTON AND DISTRICT JOINT HOSPITAL BOARD

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1947.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I append a tabulated statement of the work of the Hospital during the year, 1947, showing the number of admissions, discharges and deaths and the various conditions coming under treatment.

The number of admissions was higher than in 1946 (217 as compared with 172). A severe epidemic of measles in the district necessitated the admission of 19 children, some of them because of gravity of the illness and others because of poor home conditions. The outbreak of poliomyelitis which took place in the late summer and autumn in most areas of the British Isles produced eleven cases of the disease in the area served by the Hospital, and nine others were admitted for observation but in these the diagnosis of poliomyelitis was not confirmed.

Credit is due to the Matron and her Staff, both whole-time and part-time, for the very efficient way in which the work of the Hospital has been carried out.

Three operations were performed in the theatre, namely:—

Drainage of Frontal Sinus.
Circumcision, and
Supra-pubic Cystostomy.

There were eight deaths, the causes being:—

Tuberculous Meningitis, 4 cases.
Streptococcal Meningitis, 1 case.
Bronchopneumonia in 2 cases of measles and in one case of
Whooping Cough.

There were 42 admissions to the Tuberculosis Sanatorium, twenty were discharged and twenty died. The total number of patient days for these cases was 7,051, as against 7,021 for 1946. In connection with the Tuberculosis work 540 artificial pneumothoraces were carried out.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

HUGH MORRISON,

Medical Superintendent.

TAUNTON & DISTRICT JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

TABULATED STATEMENT OF CASES ETC., FOR YEAR 1947.

DISTRICT	ADMITTED	Brought forward, Remaining, Dec., 1947	DISCHARGED	DEATHS	PATIENT DAYS	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Tonsillitis (Vincent's, Angina)	Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	T. B. Meningitis	Pneumococcal Meningitis	Whooping Cough	Whooping Cough (Obser.)	Measles	Skin Rashes	Laryngitis	Suspected Meningitis	Polioencephalitis	Suspected Poliomyelitis	Paratyphoid B	Typhoid Fever	Pemphigus	Nursing Mothers	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Pneumonia	Enteritis	Dermatitis	Cow Pox	Glandular Fever	Tetanus	Puerperal Pyrexia	Contact Infants	Abortion	Erysipelas.	Encephalo-Myelitis	Chicken Pox.	Poliomyelitis
Taunton Borough	70	6	5	67	4	2048	32	3	2	-	-	6	-	10	3	-	2	1	2	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
Wellington Urban	4	-	-	4	-	121	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Taunton Rural ...	28	-	-	25	3	646	5	5	1	3	-	2	-	5	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	
Wellington Rural	13	-	1	12	-	258	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Bridgwater Rural	8	1	-	8	1	230	3	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Dulverton Rural	2	-	-	2	-	30	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Other Authorities	35	1	3	33	-	888	13	1	1	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Maternity and Child Welfare																																					
Somerset C. C.	37	2	2	37	-	562	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	14	1	-	-	-	
Taunton Borough	19	-	-	19	-	303	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	9	-	-	-	-	
Yeovil Borough	1	-	-	1	-	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	
TOTALS	217	10	11	208	8	5104	59	6	10	5	4	210	1	19	4	1	3	1	9	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	128	23	1	2	1	111

